

17. (New) The drive of claim 16, wherein a control unit is operable to detect the fault and to activate the separating arrangement.

18. (New) The drive of claim 17, wherein the separating arrangement is operable to cause an irreversible separation of the connections between the winding phases of the multiphase armature winding.

19. (New) The drive of claim 18, wherein the separating arrangement includes at least one pyrotechnic blasting capsule that is triggerable by the control unit.

20. (New) The drive of claim 19, wherein the multiphase armature winding is in a star connection, and the at least one pyrotechnic blasting capsule is arranged at a neutral point so that it is capable of rupturing the neutral point.

21. (New) The drive of claim 19, wherein the separating arrangement includes switching contacts that are prestressed in a direction of opening and holding elements, the opening and holding elements being operable to secure one of the switching contacts in a closed position, and the at least one blasting capsule is arranged so that it is capable of at least one of destroying and releasing the opening and holding elements.

22. (New) The drive of claim 21, wherein:

the multiphase armature winding is in a star connection and includes at least two winding phases;

the switching contacts include the opening and holding elements arranged between a neutral point and an end of a winding of the at least two winding phases; and

the at least one pyrotechnic blasting capsule is a common blasting capsule for all of the opening and holding elements.

23. (New) The drive of claim 21, wherein:

the multiphase armature winding is in a delta connection;

each of the switching contacts includes one of the opening and holding elements connected in series with each of the at least two winding phases; and

the at least one pyrotechnic blasting capsule includes a plurality of pyrotechnic blasting elements, one for each of the opening and holding elements.

24. (New) The drive of claim 17, wherein the separating arrangement includes at least one fusible cutout that is controllable by the control unit.

25. (New) The drive of claim 17, wherein the separating arrangement is operable to cause a reversible separation of the connections between the winding phases of the multiphase armature winding.

26. (New) The drive of claim 25, wherein the separating arrangement includes electric switching contacts arranged in the winding phases that are controllable at least one of electronically and mechanically.

27. (New) The drive of claim 24, wherein the multiphase armature winding is in a star connection, and the separating arrangement is arranged at a neutral point.

28. (New) The drive of claim 24, wherein the multiphase armature winding is in a delta connection, and the separating arrangement is connected in series with each of the winding phases.

29. (New) The drive of claim 17, wherein:

the switching device includes semiconductor switches in a bridge circuit;

the control unit includes measurement shunts arranged in each connecting line between the switching device and the multiphase armature winding; and

the control unit is operable to measure electric current flowing through the measurement shunts in simultaneous blocking phases of all the semiconductor switches, and to deliver an activation signal to the separation arrangement if a current value in at least one of the measurement shunts differs significantly from zero.

30. (New) The drive of claim 17, wherein: